Global Telephony Grey Market

*176. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that global telephony grey market is a security hazard;

(b) whether the identity of the caller who makes a call through illegal channels can not be ascertained in this system being beyond the scope of interception of Government agencies;

(c) whether such calls are liable to commit crime like hawala transaction, cricket betting, satta markets and drug-trafficking, etc.; and

(d) if so, Government's proposed action plan to control the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government's proposed action plan to control this menace comprises the following:—

(i) Dedicated CBI cells have been formed in the four metro cities *i.e.* Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.

(ii) Instructions have been issued to field officers of BSNL/ MTNL and all other private service providers for monitoring and taking action with the help of CBI/police authorities.

(iii) Presentations/training to Senior Officers of Telecom are being organized by the DoT, based on the past experience.

(iv) Close coordination is being maintained with investigating agencies and Telecom Operators.

(v) A Committee constituted by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), consisting of officers from DoT, BSNL, MTNL and representatives of private International Long Distance Operators (ILDOs) has studied the various issues and is expected to suggest further measures to curb the illegal routing of International Long Distance (ILD) traffic.